

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated June 4, 2004, in the matter of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/084,266. In response to a Restriction Requirement, the Applicant traversed the Restriction Requirement and elected Claims 20-23. The Examiner upheld the Restriction Requirement, and thus, Claims 1-19 and 24-28 are withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. The Applicant has cancelled previously elected Claims 20-23 herewith, and has added Claims 29-39 that pertain to the same invention.

In the above-referenced Office Action, the Examiner objected to Figures 3 and 4 of the drawings. The Applicant has added the description "(PRIOR ART)" to these drawings, and therefore, the Examiner is requested to withdraw the objection to the drawings.

As noted above, Claims 20-23 have been cancelled and Claims 29-39 have been added. It is noted to the Examiner's attention that new Claims 29-31 are substantially similar to Claims 17-19 of Japanese Patent No. 3530979 (registration date: March 12, 2004) which corresponds to the present U.S. Patent Application No. 10/084,266.

It is well recognized that claims are anticipated if, and only if, each and every element, as set forth in the claim is found in a single prior art reference. Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Furthermore, "[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the...claim." Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). See MPEP §2131.

The Applicant asserts that references JP06-184891 and U.S. Patent No. 5,344,692 to Schmooch neither teach nor suggest the contents of the proposed added Claims 29-39. More particularly, and among other things, the Applicant believes that the cited references fail to teach applying an ultrasonic vibration to the second member through the press device. Accordingly, the Applicant believes that the added claims are allowable.

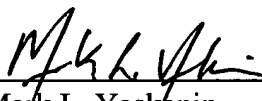
An Exhibit, not to become part of the record of the application, is attached hereto for the Examiner's review. The Applicant wishes to demonstrate to the Examiner, by way of the enclosed Exhibit, that the method of the present invention provides for improved bonding between an item and leather as compared to the method of the prior art. The Applicant's Attorney requests that the

Exhibit be returned to the Applicant's Attorney at the Applicant's expense after the Examiner and the USPTO is finished with reviewing the Exhibit.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants believe that the new claims presented herein are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Figures 3 and 4 have been amended by adding the text “(Prior Art)” to each of the Figures. Copies of the amended drawings are attached, including copies that show the highlighted changes. No new matter has been added to the drawings.

FIG. 3

(PRIOR ART)

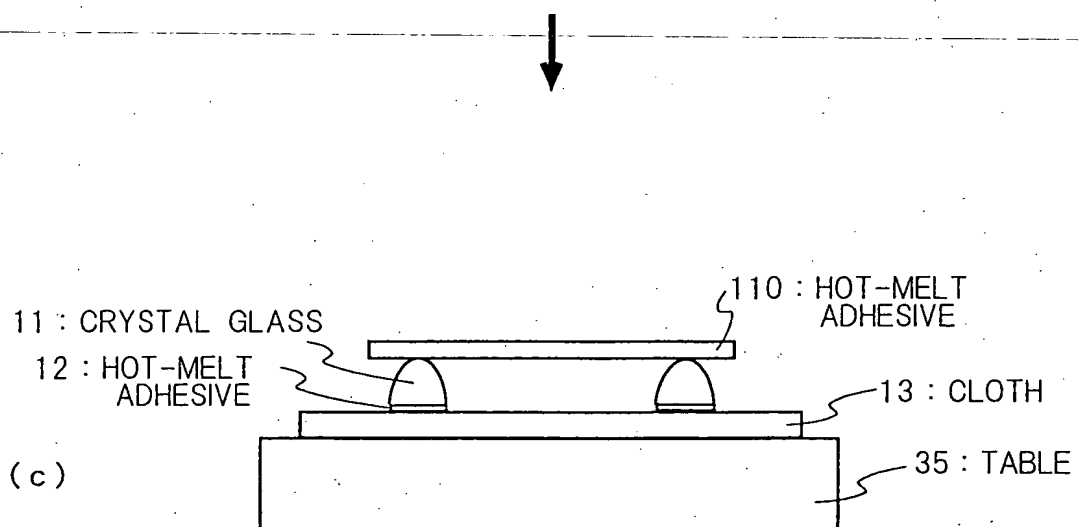
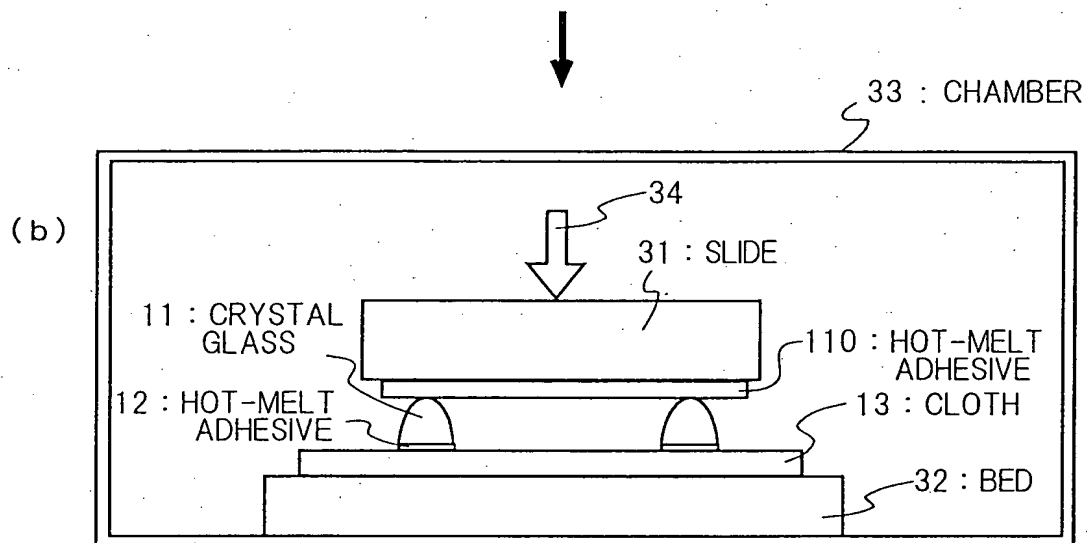
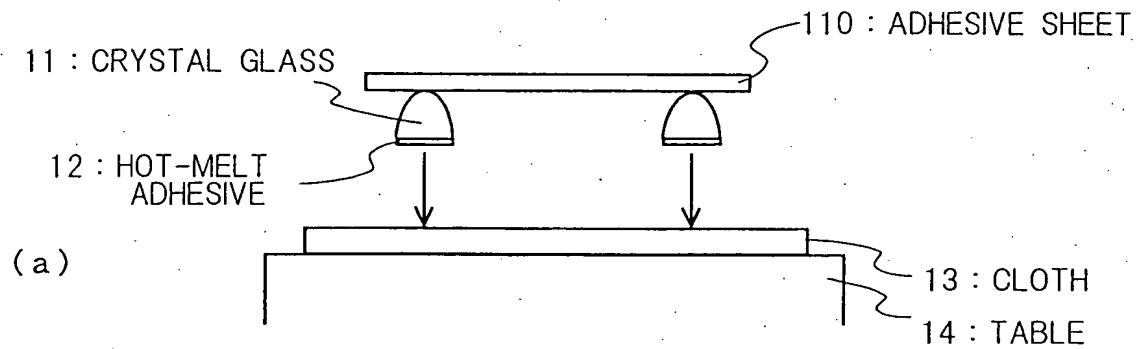


FIG. 4
 (PRIOR ART)

